

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00
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R 141010Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4424
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 1132

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, GV, CG
SUBJECT: UNOFFICIAL GUINEAN ATTITUDE TOWARD PAN-AFRICAN PEACE-
KEEPING FORCE IN SHABA

1. EMBOFF CALLED ON MFA'S POLITICAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR BENGALY
DABO AND DREW HIM OUT ON GUINEAN ATTITUDE TOWARD INTER-
AFRICAN PEACEKEEPING FORCE FOR USE IN SHABA PROVINCE.

2. DABO WAS CAREFUL TO POINT OUT THAT GOG HAD NOT OFFICIALLY
FORMULATED POSITION ON PEACEKEEPING FORCE, BUT PROCEEDED
NEVERTHELESS TO RELATE -- UNOFFICIALLY -- GOG PERSPECTIVES
WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS LOGICALLY DERIVING FROM AFRICAN
POLITICAL REALITIES AND GUINEA'S TRADITIONAL POLITICAL
DIFFERENCES WITH REGARD TO SOME OF MORE MODERATE COUNTRIES
PARTICIPATING IN PAN-AFRICAN FORCE. HE STATED GUINEA DID
NOT FAVOR PRINCIPLE OF AFRICAN PEACEKEEPING FORCE
BECAUSE COUNTRIES INVOLVED TENDED TO BE OF ONE
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GENERALLY HOMOGENEOUS POLITICAL PERSUASION AND THAT
THEIR ACTIVITIES ON BEHALF OF CERTAIN FACTION OF AFRICAN
STATES TENDED TO "POLARIZE" GROUPINGS OF STATES
AGAINST ONE ANOTHER. WHILE HE WAS CAREFUL NOT TO BE
CRITICAL OF IMMEDIATE GOAL OF BRINGING STABILITY TO
SHABA REGION, HE DID STATE THAT COMPOSITION OF THE
FORCE REFLECTED THE DIVISIONS FROM WHICH AFRICAN HAD

ALREADY TOO LONG SUFFERED.

3. ASKED IF GOG'S REACTION WOULD BE DIFFERENT WERE SUCH FORCE TO BE FORMED UNDER AUSPICES OF THE OAU, DABO'S REPLY WAS GENERALLY AFFIRMATIVE, BUT HESITANT AND LACKING IN CONVICTION. DABO THEN TOOK OCCASION TO STRESS IMPORTANCE OF NON-ALIGNMENT IN AFRICA. HE BRIEFLY CATALOGUED RUDIMENTARY SERIES OF PITFALLS WHICH A COUNTRY CAN EXPECT TO ENCOUNTER BY PURSUING TO-AND-FRO POLICY OF ALIGNING ONESELF FIRST WITH ONE AND THEN OTHER OF TWO SUPERPOWERS.

4. COMMENT: DABO EXPRESSED GOG'S "NON-POSITION" ON PEACEKEEPING FORCE BY CAREFULLY COUCHING HIS LANGUAGE IN TERMS OF POTENTIAL DIVISIVENESS AFRICAN FORCE REPRESENTS, NOTING THERE WERE OTHER AFRICAN STATES WHO OPPOSED IDEA. WHAT DABO DID NOT SAY WAS THAT ESSENTIAL STUMBLING BLOCK FOR GUINEA IN THIS AFFAIR IS PROBABLY THAT THE PEACEKEEPING FORCE -- REGARDLESS OF FACT THAT IT FOR FIRST TIME REPRESENTS COLLECTIVE AFRICAN MILITARY EFFORT TO DEAL WITH AN AFRICAN PROBLEM -- SEEKS TO STABILIZE MOBUTU GOVERNMENT, A GOVERNMENT WHICH SEKOU TOURE WOULD BE PLEASED TO SEE REPLACED BY MORE "PROGRESSIVE" ONE. CROSBY

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